



Learn & Share
ONLINE EDUCATION

US KILLS TWO PRISONERS



US Kills Two Prisoners – level 2



22-07-2020
07:00

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

In 2003, a court **convicted** Wesley Purkey of murder. Purkey killed a 16-year-old girl in Kansas City, USA. The court **sentenced** Purkey to death. The plan was to **execute** Purkey this week on Wednesday.

However, the judge worried about the man's mental health. In 2003, Purkey was a healthy man; however, this week Purkey's lawyers said that Purkey did not understand the situation anymore because he had **Alzheimer's disease**. In the last minutes of his life, Purkey apologized to the girl's family and to his own daughter, too.

US federal officials executed two prisoners this week, and it was very unusual. The last time it happened was almost 20 years ago. Usually, each state decides about its own prisoners.



VOCABULARIES

Listen and read the article below and find out the meaning of each word.

- **Convict** v. /kən'vɪkt/ – to say that someone did something wrong through a court system
- **Murder** n. /'mɜː.də/ - crime of intentionally killing a person
- **Sentence** v. /'sen.təns/ - to say what will happen to someone who did something wrong through a court system
- **Mental health** n. /,men.təl 'helθ/ - the condition of someone's mind
- **Execute** v. /'ek.sə.kju:t/ – to kill someone legally after a court decides about it
- **Alzheimer's disease** n. /'ɔlts,hɑɪ.mərz (dɪ,zɪz)/ – a disease that affects the mind of a person as he/she gets older
- **Apologize** v. /ə'pɔː.lə.dʒaɪz/ - to tell someone that you are sorry for something wrong that you did

QUICK CHECK

1. According to the article , what happened in 2003?
2. Why was he convicted of murder?
3. What was he sentenced to?
4. When was he planned to be executed?
5. What was the judge worrying about?
6. What did Purkey do in the last minutes of his life?
7. What was very unusual according to the article?

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

1. How do you feel after reading the news article?
2. Do you think that the decision made by the court is fair? Please elaborate.
3. Are you familiar with “Regrets are always at the end”? What can you say about this?
4. Do you agree on a person who committed a crime such as murder, being executed? Why so?
5. What other crimes do you think should be given execution as sentence? Why did you think so?